

VIRGINIA'S SALTWATER RECREATIONAL FISHING LICENSE



Beginning on January 1, 1993, anglers fishing in Virginia's portion of the Chesapeake Bay and its tidal, saltwater tributaries were required to obtain a saltwater recreational fishing license.

PURPOSE

The license was part of a package of legislation aimed at improving Virginia's marine fisheries, which was passed by the General Assembly in 1992. In addition to the license, the package included a two year delayed entry system for all commercial fisheries and a commercial harvesters license. The legislation also invested authority in the Marine Resources Commission to limit entry in specific fisheries as needed. The package was designed to give the Marine Resources Commission both the regulatory authority and a source of funding to enhance marine fishery resources.

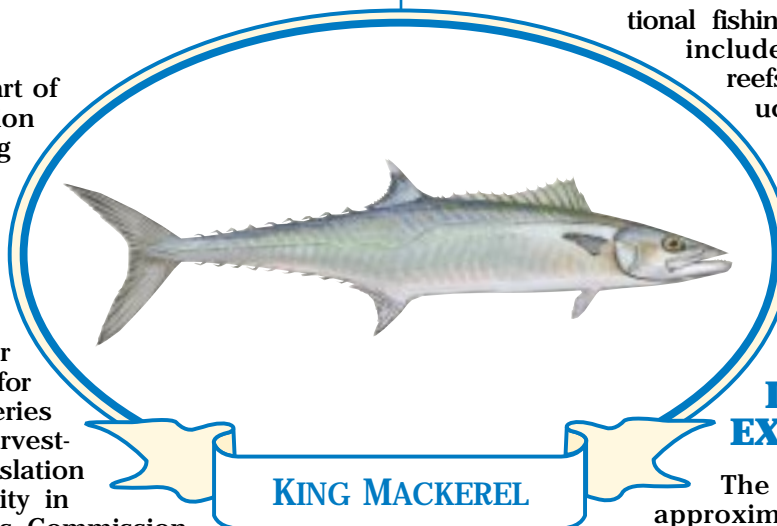
The saltwater recreational license was designed to raise revenues to conserve and enhance fish species caught by recreational fishermen. The law creating the license specified that all license monies had to be deposited in a special fund called the Virginia Saltwater Recreational Fishing Development Fund. This fund, and all interest earned on

money deposited in the fund, was created as a "non-reverting" account of the state budget. This means that fund revenues not spent during the state's fiscal year remain in the fund for expenditure in future years and do not revert to the state's general fund.

Expenditures are limited to programs to conserve and enhance fish species important to recreational fishermen, to improve recreational fishing opportunities (which includes building artificial reefs, access, and public education), to obtain data and conduct research for fisheries management, to create and restore habitat for species important to recreational fishermen, and for law enforcement.

LICENSE FUND EXPENDITURES

The license has raised approximately \$1.4 million annually for recreational fishing projects. A board of citizens representing the interests of the recreational fishery, called the Virginia Recreational Fishing Advisory Board, has been entrusted with the responsibility of reviewing and recommending proposals for expenditures from the Saltwater Recreational Fishing Development Fund. This board is appointed by the Commissioner of the Marine Resources Commission. Their recommendations are approved by the Marine Resources Commission, which has final authority over all Fund expenditures.



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LICENSE FEES

Individual Licenses

Resident Annual License.	\$7.50
Resident 10-Day License.	\$5.00
Nonresident Annual License	\$7.50
Nonresident 10-Day License	\$5.00

Private Boat License*

Annual License	\$30.00
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*This license covers all persons fishing on the private boat and it provides an individual license to the boat owner.

Lifetime Individual License

Up to and including age 44.	\$250
Ages 45-50.	\$120
Ages 51-55.	\$90
Ages 56-60.	\$60
Ages 61-64.	\$30

Lifetime License for Disabled Person**

Lifetime License Fee	\$5.00
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**This license is available to any Virginia resident who is permanently and totally disabled upon proof of disability.

Charterboat License***

Charterboat License (6 passengers or less)	\$150.00
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Charterboat License

(7 passengers or more).	\$150.00,
plus \$4 for each passenger over 6 for which boat is licensed.	

***This license covers all passengers on a properly licensed charterboat.

Commercial Fishing Pier License****

Commercial Fishing Pier	\$450.00
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****This license covers all customers on a properly licensed commercial fishing pier.

Boat Rental Business License*****

Boat Rental Business (per boat fee)	\$7.50
Maximum Fee.	\$500.00

*****This license covers all customers on properly licensed rental boats.

PERSONS WHO NEED A FISHING LICENSE

Anyone fishing with a rod and reel, handline, spear or gig in Virginia's portion of the Chesapeake Bay or in the saltwater, tidal tributaries of the Chesapeake Bay.

PERSONS WHO DO NOT NEED A FISHING LICENSE

1. Children under the age of 16,
2. Persons 65 years of age, or older.
3. Persons fishing on a private boat, if the boat has a valid Virginia saltwater fishing license covering all persons on board.
4. Customers fishing on a charterboat, headboat or rental boat, if the boat has a valid Virginia saltwater fishing license covering all customers on board.
5. Customers fishing on a commercial fishing pier, if the pier has a valid Virginia saltwater fishing license covering all customers on the pier.
6. Persons fishing in coastal and ocean waters outside of the easternmost boundary of the Chesapeake Bay.
7. Landowners, their spouses and children, and their non-paying guests when fishing from the landowner's private real property.
8. Organized groups of individuals with physical or mental limitations, veterans in veterans hospitals, and school groups (K-12), when such groups have written permission from the Commissioner of the Marine Resources Commission.
9. Persons holding a valid Maryland saltwater recreational fishing license, as long as the reciprocal licensing agreement continues between Maryland and Virginia.
10. Persons holding a valid Potomac River Fisheries Commission recreational saltwater fishing license, as long as the reciprocal licensing agreement continues between the PRFC and Virginia.
11. Persons fishing with commercial gear licensed by the Virginia Marine Resources Commission, including holders of commercial rod and reel licenses.



PROJECTS FUNDED WITH SALTWATER RECREATIONAL LICENSE FUNDS

I. Artificial Reefs

1. Occohannock Artificial Reef
2. Cape Charles Artificial Reef
3. Nassawadox Artificial Reef
4. Northern Neck Artificial Reef
5. Buoy Purchase & Placement for Artificial Reefs
6. Establish Deployment Fund for Artificial Reef Program
7. Digital Imagery of Virginia's Artificial Reefs
8. Support Vessel Funding for Artificial Reef Program
9. Assessment Study of Virginia's Artificial Reefs

II. Public Access

1. Currioman Public Landing
2. Dandy Point Boat Ramp, Hampton
3. Croaker Landing, York River-Dredging
4. Gloucester Point Fishing Pier
5. Harborton Landing
6. Jones Creek Boat Ramp
7. Kiptopeake State Park Boat Ramp
8. Lynnhaven Boat Ramp
9. Morley's Wharf Pier
10. Westmoreland State Park Pier Improvements
11. Saxis Fishing Pier

III. Enhancement of Recreational Fishing Opportunities and Public Education

1. Virginia Saltwater Fishing Tournament
2. Virginia Game Fish Tagging Program
3. Virginia Marine Anglers Guide
4. National Catch & Release Symposium-VA Beach
5. Hampton Roads Kids Fishing Program
6. Newport News Kids Fishing Program
7. VA Marine Science Museum Mobile Classroom
8. VA Marine Science Museum Interactive Fishing Exhibit
9. VA Marine Science Museum Interactive Fish Shapes Exhibit
10. VIMS Mini-School of Marine Science Program
11. James River Educational Program
12. Viking Hook-Up program at Huntington Middle School.

IV. Data Collection and Assessment

1. Economic Impact Study of Virginia's Saltwater Recreational Fishery
2. Marine Recreational Fisheries Statistical Survey Enhancement
3. Saltwater Licenseholder Database
4. Striped Bass Allocation Study
5. Monitor Recreationally Important Juvenile Fish

V. Fisheries Management Research

1. Striped Bass-Study of Feeding Habits
2. Striped Bass-Study of Skin Ulcers
3. Striped Bass Stock Assessment
4. Striped Bass Spawning Assessment
5. Shark Stock Assessment
6. Cobia Spawning and Assessment-Chesapeake Bay
7. Finfish Aging Laboratory
8. Spanish Mackerel-Genetic Analysis
9. Red Drum Spawning Research
10. Gray Trout (Weakfish) Stock Structure Study
11. American Shad Feeding Biology Study
12. American Shad Restoration
13. Tautog Fishing Mortality Study
14. Tautog Reproductive Biology Study
15. Tautog Hook and Release Mortality Study
16. Summer Flounder Stock Identification
17. Summer Flounder Hook and Release Mortality Study
18. Summer Flounder Mortality Comparison Circle & "J" Hooks
19. Spadefish Biology Study

VI. Habitat Research and Restoration

1. Seagrass Habitat Restoration
2. Oyster Reef Restoration
3. Effects of Haul Seine Gear on Seagrass

Note: Includes projects funded totally or in part with recreational saltwater fishing license funds.

